



CENTRAL HAMPTON BOULEVARD AREA STUDY SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING – “DEFINING THE FRAMEWORK”

MARCH 13, 2006 PUBLIC MEETING AND CHARRETTE

Over 100 people attended the second community meeting for the Central Hampton Boulevard Area study, including residents, property owners, businesses, and students, as well as City, NRHA and Old Dominion representatives. Mayor Paul Fraim kicked off the meeting and Goody Clancy presented some findings and set the framework for the group discussions. The attendees were then divided into eight smaller groups and asked to map out a vision for the community. Following is a summary of the small group discussions.



1. HOUSING

- Higher density, multi-family housing is appropriate adjacent to ODU, to buffer single-family homes from university
- Consider mixed-use residential/retail along western edge of Colley, particularly at 25th/27th and between 35th and 38th, to increase pedestrian activity and improve safety
- Consider opportunities for townhouses along eastern edge of Killam
- High-end housing along northern waterfront, west of Killam
- Consider adaptive re-use of Madison School, possibly including a senior day-care facility
- Improve transitions between institutional and residential uses
- Retain existing single family, detached houses
- Avoid super-high-density housing in the area
- Provide diverse array of affordable housing
- Need for additional student housing, as well as wider range of rental units
- Don't sacrifice older homes for new construction

- Provide access to affordable grants for home improvement; in multi-family areas, promote rehab or rebuilding of existing structures
- Provide affordable housing for handicapped and seniors, close to community amenities

2. INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL USES

- Provide better buffers/develop more distinct boundaries using landscaping and screening between industrial and residential areas
- Spruce up the industrial areas, including industrial “park” along the rail tracks
- Consider continuation of existing service businesses
- Pursue change of industrial sites where they currently conflict with established residential areas
- Target industrial area for possible research uses by ODU
- Possible small business “co-op” facility to be located in area south of 27th Street



3. COLLEY AVENUE AND RETAIL

- Extend the “feel” of South Colley/Ghent into North Colley
- Colley has potential to develop as distinctly pedestrian-friendly, active street along its full length, with additional small-scale, neighborhood retail – including restaurants -- at key points: between 49th Street and Colley Bay; at Colley between 35th and 37th Streets
- Consider new development to fill in edges of parking lots facing onto Colley
- Continue retail in University Village

4. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

- Examine possibility of series of safe, neighborhood-friendly green spaces/corners along Colley
- Target key areas – e.g., Colley, major east-west streets -- for sidewalk and overall streetscape improvement
- Enhance pedestrian access to waterfront east of Colley and at the northern edge between Colley Ave. and Hampton Blvd.
- Raise the importance and awareness of the area’s waterfront at the northern edge: consider appropriate new development; maximize view corridors; turn paper streets into walkable, desirable pathways

- As part of overall desire to enhance pedestrian connection between the study area and Larchmont, consider new footbridge west of Killam linking study area and Larchmont waterfronts
- Locate community center; consider recreation center and green space/parks around 40th Street between Killam and Colley Avenues.
- Incorporate bike paths where appropriate, including along Colley Avenue, into the transportation network plan
- Design iconic “gateway” northbound on Hampton Boulevard just after railroad underpass
- Retain median strip at southern edge of Colley Avenue



5. SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Improve street lighting to enhance safety, targeting Colley Avenue and key streets within the study area
- Work to resolve security/crime issues in southeast quadrant of the study area, esp. at 24th and Colley
- Work with enforcement officials to improve landlords’ adherence to code
- Identify opportunities to apply City-wide “Safe Streets” policy to study area

6. TRAFFIC, PARKING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increase safety of pedestrian crossings at Hampton Blvd. and 37th Street and Hampton Blvd. and 41st Street
- Improve overall quality, including pedestrian safety, of 38th Street between Hampton Blvd and Killam: add bike path, streetscape improvements
- Examine possibility of shared parking at ODU, including the Convocation Center
- Manage on-street parking at ODU’s edges in favor of residents, while moving more of ODU affiliates to on-campus parking
- Explore feasibility of mitigating impact of truck traffic along Hampton Blvd. and Colley Ave. and through neighborhood streets within the study area

- Consider eliminating left- and right-hand turn from Colley onto 38th Street; move to 35th Street
- Explore traffic calming along 27th Street to mitigate high traffic/high speeds
- Place traffic signal at Colley and 49th Street

The Third Community Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at 5:30 PM at Saint Patrick Catholic School. Please plan to attend to review several potential plan options for the Central Hampton Boulevard Area.